

# ***ST. MARGARET ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH***

*66-05 79th Place, Middle Village, New York 11379*

**~ MASS BELLS ~**

## **PASTOR**

**Rev. ROBERT J. ARMATO**

## **PAROCHIAL VICARS**

**REV. MSGR. ROBERT J. THELEN**  
**REV. JOSEPH PALACKAL, CMI**

## **IN RESIDENCE**

**REV. MICHAEL UDOH**

## **PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

**Sr. Bridget Olwell, OSU**  
*bridgetosu7@gmail.com*

## **ST. MARGARET CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

**718-326-0922**  
**Victoria Richardson, Principal**  
*stmargprincipal@gmail.com*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**718-326-0922**  
**Victoria LoBosco**  
**Karen Gonzales**  
**Coordinators**  
*stmargaretre@gmail.com*

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

**718-326-1911**  
**Don Competello, Director**  
**Diane Competello, Asst. Director**  
*DnDSingit@aol.com*

## **LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTERS**

**Kathryn Burger    Hazel Scanlon**  
**Jeanne Perry      Sue Karcher**  
**Mary Anne Todzia**

## **GIFT SHOP**

**Sue Karcher, Coordinator**  
*parishcalendar@aol.com*

## **CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICES:**

**Mary Pascale, Receptionist**  
**Phone: 718-326-1911**

**Fax: 718-326-1883**  
**E-mail: [stmargaretmv@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretmv@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.stmargaretmv.com](http://www.stmargaretmv.com)**

**Schedule/Calendar:**  
*parishcalendar@aol.com*



**FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF  
LENT  
MARCH 14, 2021**

## **PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

*We, the St. Margaret Parish Community, are a Catholic Parish of diverse ages, gifts and backgrounds. We dedicate ourselves to our personal relationship with Jesus and to growing as a community of faith.*

*We endeavor to serve the community through education, and service and social ministries, and commit ourselves to the nurturing of the spiritual life by celebrating the Sacraments, by enriching our life of prayer and by deepening our understanding of the Scriptures. We strive to reach out and respond to the changing needs of our community.*

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>MARCH 14 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
8:00	People of the Parish
10:00	Joseph Russo/Pellegrino & Giuseppa Benfari/Maria & Francesco Virruso/
NOON	Angelina Fischetti (anniv)
5:00PM	Megan Garczynski
<b>MON.</b>	<b>MARCH 15 - LENTEN WEEKDAY</b>
7:00	Connie Faccibene
9:00	Jean Cahill
<b>TUE.</b>	<b>MARCH 16 - LENTEN WEEKDAY</b>
7:00	Jeanette Tavarone
9:00	Margaret & Eugene Trunz
9:30	Stations of the Cross, Italian
<b>WED.</b>	<b>MARCH 17 - ST. PATRICK</b>
7:00	The Rice & Minogue Families
9:00	Maureen O'Shea
<b>THU.</b>	<b>MARCH 18 - ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM</b>
7:00	Connie Faccibene
9:00	John Bohan
<b>FRI.</b>	<b>MARCH 19 - ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY/ ABSTINENCE OPTIONAL</b>
7:00	Marguerite Scaturro/Matilda Kunzinger
9:00	Dan Smith
9:30	Stations of the Cross, English
7:30PM	Holy Hour honoring St. Joseph
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>MARCH 20 - LENTEN WEEKDAY</b>
9:00	<b>collective:</b> Raymond Mis (anniv)/
5:00PM	Lt. Michael Maloney, F.D.N.Y. (anniv)
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>MARCH 21 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
8:00	George Cacioppo
10:00	Il Popolo della Parrocchia/Vincenza, Mariano e Salvatore Palmeri/Geraldine Ciaccio/Joseph Battaglia/Nicolo Mancino/Antonino Saracino/
NOON	Fred Basedow
5:00PM	Fire Lt. Kevin J. & William Pfeifer



## PARISH INFORMATION

### Rectory Office Hours

**Monday - Friday - 9am to Noon  
and 1pm to 5pm  
Saturday - by appointment  
Sunday - closed**

**CONFESSIONS** - Saturday, 4:00-4:45pm in the church.

**NOVENA** to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Mondays after the 9am Mass.

**THE ROSARY AND DIVINE MERCY** devotion are prayed every morning in the church at 8:30am.

**BAPTISMS** take place on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, at 1:30pm and 2:30pm. Please call the rectory for an appointment and to register your child. No more than two children will be baptized at each session, with a maximum of 25 guests per family.

**WEDDINGS MUST** be scheduled at least six months in advance by appointment with a priest or a deacon. Please call the rectory office. For marriage preparation information visit [www.pre-cana.org](http://www.pre-cana.org).

**THE ENGLISH CHOIR** rehearses on Wednesday, at 7 pm in the Church. Tenors and baritones needed!

**IL CORO ITALIANO** pratica ogni Domenica prima della Messa Italiana.

**THE YOUTH CHOIR** rehearses on Monday, from 6-7 pm in the Church. For more info, [DnDsingit@aol.com](mailto:DnDsingit@aol.com) **SUSPENDED**

**BOY SCOUT TROOP #119** meets on Tuesdays from 7:15-9 pm in the Parish Hall. New members are welcome, age 10 1/2 & up. Call Mr. Krzewski, 718-894-4099. **SUSPENDED**

**CUB PACK #119** meets on Mondays from 7-8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. New members welcome, age 6 to 10-1/2. Call Mr. Krzewski, 718-894-4099. **SUSPENDED**

**SENIOR CITIZENS** meet every Wednesday at 12 Noon in the Parish Center. **SUSPENDED**

# PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Linda Frazier, Cari Ann Falk-LoBello, Glen Falk, Ronald Frazier, Robert Sabini, Lee Falk, McKinley Kelleher, Sean Harrison, Justin James Quirke, Elizabeth Ott, Mary Harrison, Gloria Pemaj, Allen McConville, Jack Marchindiondo, The Scaturro Family, Louis Pittelli, James Graff, Immaculate Marge D'Elia, Jim O'Friscoll, Mary Rigovich, Matteo Sabini, Bob Biolsi, The Mojica Family, Msgr. Leonard Badia, Matthew Zender, Anthony Pittelli, Karen Schaefer, Jill Archbold, Fr. Paul Weirichs CP, Hannah Lehman, John Austin Bryzgornia, Dave Kazmier, John Nogiewich, Tim Rooney, Frank Ciccone, Cindy (Peli) Heege, Charlie Krzewski, Helga Zender, Deacon John DeBiase, Tom Haubert, John Miller, Cathie Greulich, Sr. Mary James Fox, Edward Pandolfo, Paul Colangelo, Carmen Gonzalez, Edward Stoltzenberg, Santos Santiago, William & Patricia Scharach, Fr. William Farrugia, Bernard Russo, Gerard Frohnhoefer, John & Katie Bryzgornia, Eric Velasquez, Joseph Simon, Emma Green, Joan McShea, Mary Policke, Donna Stubbs, Msgr. Robert J. Thelen,

***The names will remain for 3 months, please call 718-326-1911 and ask for continued prayers.***

## Prayer Requests

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood  
and Religious Life.

Pray for first responders and  
medical personnel.

Please pray for our men and women from our Parish  
serving in the defense of our country:

Lt. Col. Thomas Frohnhoefer  
Sgt. Robert A. Domenici



## ***WE RECALL OUR BELOVED DECEASED***

***Especially:***

*Joseph Pepicelli,*

*Joseph A. Szalkiewicz, John Viscardi,*

*May they rest in Christ's Peace!*

## MEMORIALS

### **WINE & HOST THIS WEEK**

*are offered in memory of Ruth O'Hehir  
at the request of the O'Hehir Family.*

### **ALTAR CANDLES THIS WEEK**

*are offered in memory of Ruth O'Hehir  
at the request of the O'Hehir Family.*

### **TABERNACLE LAMP THIS WEEK**

*is lit in memory of Ruth O'Hehir  
at the request of the O'Hehir Family.*



***St. Patrick  
March 17***

***St. Joseph  
March 19***



## TODAY'S READINGS

### ***Fourth Sunday of Lent***

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

Ps 137:1-6

Eph 2:4-10

Jn 3:14-21

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:

Is 65:17-21

Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b

Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday:

Ez 47:1-9, 12

Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday:

Is 49:8-15

Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18

Jn 5:17-30

Thursday:

Ex 32:7-14

Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23

Jn 5:31-47

Friday:

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29

Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or

Lk 2:41-51a

Saturday:

Jer 11:18-20

Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12

Jn 7:40-53

Sunday:

Jer 31:31-34

Ps 51:3-4, 12-15

Heb 5:7-9

Jn 12:20-33

**Scrutiny:**

Ez 37:12-14

Ps 130:1-8

Rom 8:8-11

Jn 11:1-45

## ***From the Pastor's Desk:***

### ***“By Faith Alone?”***

How are we saved from our sins? I.e., is it by faith alone, or do our works really make a difference? The short answer, as we find it in today's second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians (2: 8-9) is that “by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.” Today's Gospel goes on to say that “God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.” (John 3:16 is the popular Bible phrase that is seen so often on signs carried by fans at sporting events).

This might raise a question or two among the curious: “Well, if we already are saved by the grace of God, then why are we running around being good and doing good works? It IS rather exhausting, after all, frequently boring, and often not terribly enjoyable. Why can't I just profess my faith in Jesus Christ as my personal Lord, God, and Savior, let it go at that, and then live my life however I please?”

That might settle the matter, except for the Letter of James (2: 14, 17) in which we find the disturbing and challenging lines, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?... *faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead*” (my emphasis). This particular passage was one of the reasons why the Protestant reformer, Martin Luther, moved the Letter of James to the appendix of his Bible, as it conflicted with his position (and that of other reformers) that faith alone was enough to save: *sola fide*.

Now, to cut to the chase, and in the spirit of modern ecumenism, Catholic and Lutheran theologians agreed about the matter about twenty years ago (after almost five centuries of arguing), shook hands, and shared hot cocoa and sponge cake, or something like that. We indeed are saved only by the grace of God. It's done. Our salvation was His doing at His initiative. It is only by faith in the saving act of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ, possible by the incarnation of the only-begotten and eternal Son of the Father, and His Resurrection by the Spirit, that we are saved.

This being said, though, it was also agreed that faith must be more than just an acceptance by the mind of a major theological point or even a whole set of doctrines and dogmas. Faith is something to be expressed, to be acted upon by the way we live our lives. We cannot profess our faith in a merciful and compassionate God and not show mercy and compassion to those around us. We cannot profess our faith in a Savior Who suffered and died for our sake and then not be willing to sacrifice, to offer ourselves in humble and obedient service to the Father. We cannot believe in a God Who is love and then hold hatred and anger in our hearts.

It is true that none of us can “buy” eternal life by anything that we say or do. Our salvation is pure gift to us on the part of God. At the same time, anything that we say or do must be in accord with the will and commandments of God for our good, for our salvation, since it reflects our faith in God, in His Son, in His love, etc. God initiates purely out of love; we are called to respond in a similar way.

Faith also must develop over time and needs to be nurtured in prayer, through reflection on the Word of God, and through the grace that comes to us through our proper celebration of the Sacraments. This holy season of Lent, then, is not just a matter of what we give up, but also of what we acquire: hopefully a deeper, more mature and firmer faith in the God and Father Who loves us, in His Son Who has saved us, and in the presence of His Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

During the Rite of Ordination to the Diaconate, the bishop hands the candidate the Book of Gospels and says, “Receive the Gospel of Christ Whose herald you now are. *Believe* what you read, *teach* what you believe, and *practice* what you teach.” Faith requires expression by all of us.

May God strengthen your faith, bless your good works, and bring you to the fullness of eternal life!

~ *Fr. Armato*

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The **2021 Annual Catholic Appeal** campaign has begun, and we're off to a good start with **\$28,793 already pledged** by just 37 families against **this year's goal of \$76,014**.

The goal comes to a fair share donation of about \$120 from each of our 650 families. Some can give more, some less, but everyone can give something. Will you help to put us over the top? Please prayerfully consider making a pledge this year.

Money raised by this campaign is used to support programs for our elderly and youth, seminarians and retired priests, and other diocesan and local pastoral needs.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

We hold a holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration consisting of Exposition and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, litany, scriptural reading, and time for quiet, personal prayer from 9:30 until 10:30AM on the first Saturday of each month.

The next holy hour is April 10.

Come and spend some quality time with the Lord!

## BRIDGE TO LIFE

The St. Vincent DePaul Society is conducting its annual campaign for *Bridge to Life*.

*Bridge to Life* gives prospective moms an alternative, good pre-natal care, safe delivery, and medical and economic help for moms and infants.

Please be as generous as possible. Make this your Lenten sacrifice.

**WHEN:** Now until Good Friday.

**HOW:** Envelopes marked "*Bridge to Life*" are on the radiators in Church or provide your own, cash or checks payable to *Bridge to Life*, and/or new or gently used infant and toddler clothing or diapers size 2-5.

**WHERE:** Place envelopes in collection baskets or in the rectory mail slot. Place Clothing in the black bin in the church vestibule or at the convent, 66-25 79 Pl. on Wednesdays or Saturdays, from 10am to 12noon.

## THE ST. VINCENT dePAUL FOOD PANTRY



is located in the Convent  
66-25 79th Place

The Pantry is open every  
**WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY**  
**from 10:00am to 12:00Noon**

Thank you for your generous donations to the food pantry. We are in need of cooking oil, mayo, coffee and bottled juice. As always, we are asking for **grocery store gift cards**, which can be placed in the rectory office mail slot.

Again, we thank you for your continued support!

## MONTHLY MEMORIAL MASS

A memorial Mass with music is celebrated each month for the repose of the souls of those who were buried from our church during the preceding month.

Families who wish to have an annual or "month's mind" Mass offered for a loved one can join in the monthly celebration.

Contact the Rectory, **718-326-1911** to make the arrangements.

**The next memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11:45am Saturday, April 17.**

## E-DATA UPDATES

Help us to update our database of email addresses so that we can maintain contact. Print the following information and return it via the collection basket, or by mail, or by emailing it to:

**stmargaretmv@gmail.com**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #:(\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## PARISH FINANCES

Thanks to all of you who continue to support *your* parish as best as possible during these difficult times, whether through e-giving or in-pew offerings!

Still, we are projecting an *operating loss of over \$300,000* for the current fiscal year. We are at the point where we cannot pay our bills without dipping into what remains of rapidly thinning reserves.

To use **Faith Direct** for e-giving, go to the icon on our website and follow the instructions to sign up; or you can go straight to the **Faith Direct website** and enter our parish code, **NY299**. You can change your decision later on, as you wish.

A financial report for 2019-20 actual and a projection for 2020-21 is delayed but will be provided to the Parish shortly.

## YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Late last year, Pope Francis decreed a “Year of St. Joseph” to run Dec. 8, 2020-21, in honor of the foster father of our Lord.

As part of our celebration, the 9:00am Mass this Friday, the solemnity of St. Joseph, will be celebrated in Italian and English, and we will pray the *Litany of St. Joseph* in English at the end of Mass. While we cannot distribute bread as in previous years, if you bring bread for your own use, it will be blessed following the 9:00am Mass.

Also, Fr. Joseph will present a **holy hour** in honor of St. Joseph at 7:30pm that evening. All are welcome to attend both celebrations.

*As the solemnity falls on a Friday this year, Bishop DiMarzio has dispensed us from the obligation to abstain from meat. Do another act of penance.*

Finally, a devotional statue of St. Joseph has been placed at the front of the church. The candles at either side of it will be lit at all Masses during the rest of the jubilee year and can be donated each week in memory of your particular intention. Contact the rectory for more information.

## HONORING ST. PATRICK

We will pray the *Lorica*, aka the *Breastplate of St. Patrick*, at the end of the 9:00am Mass this Wednesday, his feast day. All are welcome. Copies of the prayer will be available for you to take home for private devotion.

## FORMED IS HERE!

**FORMED**, produced by the Augustine Institute, has come to St. Margaret’s and is available without charge to all parishioners. All that is needed to visit the website is Internet access and an e-mail account.

**FORMED** is an on-line resource for adult and youth faith formation, prayer, sacramental preparation, and so much more. The app can be downloaded very easily to your computer or ROKU and also to your cell phone or iPad so that you can enjoy the presentations wherever you happen to be.

To **register** on FORMED:

- 1) Go to FORMED.org/signup
- 2) Enter our Zip Code, 11379, and select St. Margaret
- 3) Enter your name and email address.

If you **already have a FORMED account**:

- 1) Go to FORMED.org
- 2) Click on “Sign In”
- 3) Enter your email address
- 4) Click the link to your email
- 5) BOOM! You’re in and free to explore to your heart’s delight.

## THE ST. VINCENT dePAUL CLOTHING PICK-UP

will be held next Sunday, March 21. The truck will be on 79th Place, near the parking lot from 8:00am until 12:30pm for your items.

## PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR ITEMS AT THE RECTORY DOOR

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The **Stations of the Cross** (*Via Crucis*) will be celebrated during Lent in Italian every Tuesday morning at 9:30 and in English every Friday morning at 9:30. Come and walk with the Lord, praying along the way of His Passion!